

Summary

Claims 1-2 were pending. Claim 3 was added. No new matter was added by this amendment.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Toda (U.S. Patent 5,712,540). Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites the load-driving circuit contains first/second switching means that are turned on when a first/second driving switch is switched to a position where a first/second load is driven (respectively) and third switching means for ceasing driving the first load when the first switching means and the second switching means are turned on at the same time.

Claim 2 recites that the motor-driving circuit contains first and second switching means that are turned on when particular switches operate, and third switching means for when both the first and second switching means are turned on.

Toda, on the other hand, does not teach first or second driving switches, or first, second, or third switching means, as recited in either of Claims 1 or 2.

More specifically, Toda teaches merely that the microcomputer 25 (which the Examiner equates to the third switching means) controls circuits 26 and 27. However, Toda neither anticipates nor discloses an arrangement in which a switching means specifically stops driving of one of first and second loads when both first and second switching means are turned on, as recited in Claim 1, or disconnects a terminal of a motor from a power supply terminal or a ground terminal when both first and second switching means are turned on, as recited in Claim 2.

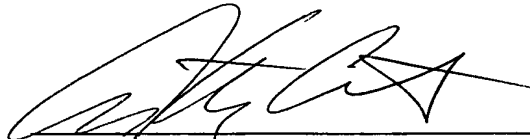
Moreover, Toda (col. 8, lines 35-45, for example) states that control is performed merely to operate the motor 12, which consists of 3-phase wirings. However, the transistors are not similar to the first or second driving switches recited in Claims 1 or 2. Nor does Toda disclose switching means that are switched on when the first or second driving switch (the transistors Ua, Va, Wa, Xa, Ya, and Za according to the Examiner) is switched to a position where the first or second load is

driven, respectively, as recited in Claim 1, or first and second switching means that are turned on when particular switches operate, as recited in Claim 2.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony P. Curtis', written over a horizontal line.

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